

Amendments to the Specification:

Please add the following new paragraph on Page 1, above line 1:

--CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

Applicants claim priority under 35 U.S.C. §119 of Austrian Application No. A 482/2004 filed March 18, 2004. Applicants also claim priority under 35 U.S.C. §365 of PCT/AT2005/0000082 filed March 9, 2005. The international application under PCT article 21(2) was not published in English.--

Page 1, amend paragraph one as follows:

The invention relates to a system and method for dispensing stackable objects in shaft-type dispenser magazines of at least one storage unit and monitoring the level in the dispenser magazines by means of detection system, of the type described in the introductory parts of claims ~~1, 19, 20 and 21~~ 34 and 52.

Please cancel the second full paragraph on page 1 and replace it with the following new paragraph:

-- Patent specification US 5,755,552 A discloses a generic system for dispensing stackable objects, comprising storage units disposed at each side of a conveyor system. The storage units

are each formed by elongate, shaft-type, dispenser magazines disposed one after the other in a row in their longitudinal direction for accomodating different objects, and discharge mechanisms controlled by a computer system are disposed at the bottom end of each dispenser magazine. The dispenser magazines are each equipped with a stationary sensor for monitoring a level, which transmits a signal to a control unit as soon as the stack falls below minium level, whereupon an operator fills the dispenser magazine with objects by hand. --

Please amend the last paragraph on page 2 as follows:

However, by far the biggest disadvantage of the known level monitoring systems resides in the fact that the operator always fills only the dispenser magazines at which a message in the form of an alarm has just been issued, indicating that the dispenser magazines need filling, on a non-selective basis, and at this stage, the operator is not aware which dispenser magazines absolutely have to be topped up. As a result, there is no way of guaranteeing that the operator will fill, as a matter of urgency (based on priority), those dispenser magazines which must contain a sufficient stock of the objects to be commissioned to enable an order or subsequent orders to be met correctly. ~~If an order or~~

~~subsequent orders can not be met, part of the consignment plant must be stopped.~~

Please amend the first paragraph on page 3 as follows:

Patent specification DE 27 36 197 A1 also discloses an electronically controlled, automated consignment system, which has a storage system with several vertical shaft-type dispenser magazines disposed adjacent to one another. The dispenser magazines are filled on an automated basis by means of a conveyor system. The dispenser magazines are each fitted with sensors, by means of which an actual stock level of objects is detected, after which the actual stock level of objects is compared with a desired stock level of objects needed for an order and the actual stock level of objects is reconciled. The dispenser magazines are topped up with only a quantity of objects needed for processing the order, thereby enabling an economic batch size to be prepared. ~~When a dispenser magazine is filled to a maximum, the objects being conveyed by the conveyor system are taken out of the control loop and returned to the feed circuit.~~

Please insert the following new paragraph after the first full paragraph on page 3:

-- Patent specification DE 27 36 197 A1 also discloses an electronically controlled, automated consignment system, which has a storage unit with several vertical shaft-type dispenser magazines disposed adjacent to one another. The dispenser magazines are filled on an automated basis by means of a conveyor system. The dispenser magazines are each fitted with sensors, by means of which an actual stock level of objects is detected, after which the actual stock level of objects is compared with a desired stock level of objects needed for an order and the actual stock level of objects is reconciled. The dispenser magazines are topped up with only a quantity of objects needed for processing the order, thereby enabling an economic batch size to be prepared. --

Please amend the second full paragraph on page 6 as follows:

The objective of the invention is also achieved on the basis of the features defined in the characterizing part of claim 20. ~~The major advantage of this approach is that a~~ , because the demand message for objects is not issued to the operator unless

the actual stock level of objects of a dispenser magazine is too low and a detected order can therefore not be correctly satisfied. In other words, the computer system firstly runs a check to ascertain what number (desired demand) of objects is needed for this detected order and then runs a comparison to ascertain whether the contents of the dispenser magazine are sufficient to process the order. If this order can not be fulfilled, a demand message is issued to the operator. This takes place before or during the processing of this order and even before the dispenser magazine has been completely emptied, thereby ruling out stoppage of the system. If the dispenser magazine still contains sufficient objects for this order, no demand message is issued. However, this may also mean that there are still only a few objects in the dispenser magazine but the actual stock level of objects is still sufficient and the order can be fulfilled. A demand message is not issued until another order for the same object is entered and the actual stock level of objects is not enough. This being the case, the operator will not receive a demand message unless a top-up operation is actually necessary rather than receiving one as soon as the quantity falls below a minimum level, as is the case with the systems known from the prior art, irrespective of whether more objects are actually needed in order to complete this and possibly a subsequent order. This correlation of the determined actual stock level in the dispenser magazine with the order means

that the number of demand messages issued to the operator is minimal, thus relieving the operator. The demand message may also contain information such as the number of objects needed to complete the order correctly and the time window within which a top-up will be needed without the risk of this dispenser magazine being totally emptied. This offers the operator another option for coordinating the filling operations.

Please amend the paragraph bridging pages 6 and 7 as follows:

~~The objective of the invention is also achieved on the basis of the features described in the characterizing part of claim 21.~~

The advantage of ~~this~~ the feature defined in claim 21 is that, using a predicted sales quantity of at least one type of object within a specific time window, the required quantity of this object is determined and the planning of resources can be delegated to operators on the basis of this demand. The output values for the projected sales quantity of an object can be determined using statistical evaluations or by means of values based on experience and entered in the computer system as a quantitative amount.

Please cancel the first paragraph on page 8 and replace it with the following new paragraph:

-- As a result of the features defined in claims 59 and 60, the control carriage can be moved in a coordinated manner, depending on the demand requirements of an order or a predicted sales quantity. --

Please cancel the third paragraph on page 8:

"Finally,...consignments."